

Produced by the South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness  
in partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health

# PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

## Agroterrorism and Public Health *Reestablishing an Old Relationship*

Satellite Conference

Thursday, June 24, 2004, 12:00-1:30 p.m. (Central Time)

1:00-2:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) • 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) • 10:00-11:30 a.m. (Pacific Time)

**A**nimal Diseases transmissible to man (zoonosis) were a major focus of public health at the beginning of the last century, when we were an agrarian society. Diseases such as Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis were contained by the advent of pasteurization and animal surveillance. As our population became predominantly urban and we had successfully eliminated many of the earlier zoonotic diseases, we shifted our attention away from the strong relationship between agriculture and public health.

Our challenge today is once again from these zoonotic agents which may be introduced accidentally or by terrorists. The majority of the Category A Biological Agents are agricultural diseases which have been weaponized. We have already been confronted by new disease agents such as West Nile Virus, Monkey Pox, Avian Influenza and Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis. Our globalization of society increases the probability of further exotic animal diseases entering our country. The volume of traffic in people, cargo, vessels, animals and migratory birds or insects is an ongoing source of potential new disease.

The major economic role that agriculture has in the U.S. makes it a very desirable target for terrorists. Our nation's food supply is critical and a major potential vehicle for terrorist attack. Dr. Kelliher will discuss how the public health system presently faces this challenge to protect the public from this threat.

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### John C. Kelliher, DVM

Associate State Public Health Veterinarian  
Alabama Department of Public Health  
and

Affiliate Professor of Pathobiology  
College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University

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### Objectives:

1. Introduce the audience to the significance of agriculture, animal diseases and zoonosis to public health.
2. Enhance awareness to the dynamic challenges to public health inherent in exotic animal diseases and biological weapons.
3. Illustrate how the public health community, both Federal and State, are addressing these challenges.

### Conference Details:

**Target Audience:** Public health professionals and their partners with whom they will need to communicate in a public health emergency

**Registration:** [www.adph.org/alphtn](http://www.adph.org/alphtn) **Cost:** No cost

**CEU's:** No CEU's for this satellite conference

**Satellite Coordinates:** C & Ku Band

**Conference Materials:** Posted on our website approximately one week before the program

**Questions:** [alphtn@adph.state.al.us](mailto:alphtn@adph.state.al.us) or 334-206-5618

**Webcast:** This conference will be an archived webcast beginning on June 28, 2004.

**Issues or questions you want addressed during the conference?** Email ([alphtn@adph.state.al.us](mailto:alphtn@adph.state.al.us)) or fax (334-206-5640) the conference faculty. They will respond during the program.

### Upcoming Conference:

Tuesday, July 20, 2004  
(Topic to be Announced)  
12:00-1:30 p.m. (Central Time)

Chemical Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism  
Thursday, August 12, 2004  
12:00-1:30 p.m. (Central Time)

For a complete listing of upcoming programs,  
visit our website: [www.adph.org/alphtn](http://www.adph.org/alphtn)